

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A card destruction system comprising:
2 a reader that is configured to read identification information from the card;
3 a controller that is coupled to the reader, wherein the controller is configured
4 to receive the identification information and to determine whether the card is to be destroyed;
5 a delivery sensor coupled to the controller to sense when the card is delivered
6 to a card destruction device;
7 wherein the controller is further configured to produce a record of the
8 destruction based on a signal from the sensor.

1 2. A system as in claim 1, further comprising a moving system to move
2 the card through the reader and to the card destruction device.

1 3. A system as in claim 2, wherein the moving system comprises a
2 plurality of rollers, at least some of which are rotatable in opposite directions to move the
3 card between the rollers.

1 4. A system as in claim 3, further comprising an AC motor that is
2 configured to rotate certain ones of the rollers that are upstream and downstream of the
3 reader.

1 5. A system as in claim 3, further comprising a DC motor that is
2 configured to rotate certain ones of the rollers that are associated with the reader.

1 6. A system as in claim 2, further comprising a feeding mechanism that is
2 configured to feed individual cards from a stack of cards to the moving system.

1 7. A system as in claim 6, wherein the feeding mechanism includes a cam
2 that is operable based on a signal from the controller to move a card from the stack and into
3 the moving system.

1 8. A system as in claim 3, further comprising an entry sensor that is
2 coupled to the controller to sense when a card has entered the moving system, and an exit
3 sensor coupled to the controller to sense when the card has exited the reader.

1 9. A system as in claim 8, wherein the controller is configured to stop
2 rotation of at least some of the rollers if the card reaches the exit sensor and the determination
3 as to whether the card is to be destroyed has not been made.

1 10. A system as in claim 2, further comprising a switch disposed along the
2 moving system downstream of the reader to direct movement of the card to the destruction
3 device or to a holding location depending on the determination from the controller.

1 11. A system as in claim 1, wherein the record produced by the controller
2 includes the identification information, a date and time of destruction, and operator
3 information.

1 12. A card destruction system comprising:
2 a reader that is configured to read identification information from the card;
3 a controller that is coupled to the reader, wherein the controller is configured
4 to receive the identification information and to determine whether the card is to be destroyed;
5 a card destruction device that is configured to receive and destroy cards;
6 a delivery sensor coupled to the controller to sense when the card is delivered
7 to a card destruction device;
8 wherein the controller is further configured to produce a record of the
9 destruction based on a signal from the sensor.

1 13. A system as in claim 12, wherein the card destruction device comprises
2 a shredder.

1 14. A method for destroying cards, the method comprising:
2 reading identification information from a card using a reader;
3 determining with a controller whether the card is to be destroyed based on the
4 identification information;
5 sending the card to a destruction device if the controller determines that the
6 card is to be destroyed; and
7 sensing delivery of the card to the card destruction device with a delivery
8 sensor and sending the sensed information to the controller to produce a record of the
9 destruction.

1 15. A method as in claim 14, further comprising moving the card through
2 the reader and to the destruction device with a moving system.

1 16. A method as in claim 15, wherein the moving system comprises
2 rollers, and further comprising moving the rollers in opposite directions to move the card.

1 17. A method as in claim 14, further comprising feeding the card to the
2 moving system from a stack of cards that are held in a bin.

1 18. A method as in claim 14, wherein the destruction record includes the
2 identification information, a date and time of destruction, and operator information.

1 19. A method as in claim 14, wherein the reading step comprises reading
2 the identification information from a magnetic stripe on the card.

10072379-020502